

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 556

By Burks

A RESOLUTION paying a final tribute to Billy Frank Hendley.

WHEREAS, Billy Frank Hendley was born May 31, 1938 in Hillsdale, Tennessee, Macon County the eldest son and second child of ten children of Wilbur J. Hendley, Sr. of Pine Hill, Tennessee, Clay County, and Ida May Taylor of Lafayette, Tennessee, Macon County. Named jointly for his great-uncle, William “Billy” Bird Hendley, and great-grandfather, Francis “Frank” M. Hendley, both natives of Putnam County, Tennessee. He was the grandson of Willis Aden Hendley (native of Putnam County) and Mary Daisy Lancaster of Monroe County, Kentucky, both of whom passed away in Hartsville, Tennessee, Trousdale County, and are buried at Pleasant Valley Cemetery just across the Trousdale County Line in Macon County. He was the great-grandson of Francis Marion Hendley (born in Putnam County) and Savannah Josephine Clover of Warren County, Kentucky, formerly of Zebulon, Pike County, Georgia. He was the great-great-grandson of Adin S. Hendley and Elizabeth Jane Gentry both of Jackson County (later Putnam County), Tennessee. Elizabeth J. Gentry-Hendley was third cousin to United States, and later Confederate States Congressman and candidate for Governor of Tennessee in 1855 running against incumbent governor Andrew Johnson, the late Honorable Meredith P. Gentry who was defeated by just 2,157 votes; and

WHEREAS, Billy Frank Hendley moved with his family to the Bill Douglas Farm just off of State Road 252 in Nineveh Township in southern Johnson County, Indiana, in July of 1942. Billy Hendley began his education attending a number of schools during his childhood. He was a student at Nineveh Township (where the movie “Hoosiers” (1986) was filmed), Union Township, Needham Township all of Johnson County, Spearsville (Brown County), Mt. Auburn (Shelby County), and Hopewell (Franklin Township) elementary schools, before attending

Trafalgar Elementary and High School in Hensley Township both of Johnson County, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, Billy Frank Hendley exhibited a Volunteer Spirit that all Tennesseans and native Tennesseans inherently possess; Billy joined the Indiana Army National Guard on April 29, 1956; he served three consecutive enlistments from 1956-1966, including that of Ordnance Parts Specialist, Ordnance Supply Specialist, both with Headquarters & Company A of the 738th Ordnance Battalion, and Light Truck Driver with Headquarters & Company B of the 38th Aviation Battalion; and

WHEREAS, Billy Frank Hendley's family heritage was very much in the spirit of the Civil War Sesquicentennial (150th Anniversary) now being currently observed, with his three great-great-uncles: John (Teamster), William and Nimrod served in the 8th Tennessee Cavalry, Company K (carried as the 13th Tennessee Cavalry on the rolls of the Confederate States War Department in Richmond) lastly commanded by Col. Mounce L. Gore great-great-grandfather of United States Vice President Albert Gore, Jr. of Tennessee., who was a close neighbor in Jackson County, Tennessee did land transactions with Mr. Hendley's great-great-grandfather Adin S. Hendley. Gore's command was assigned escort duty to the convoy of President Jefferson Davis at Charlotte, North Carolina, shortly after General Joseph Johnston surrendered the Army of Tennessee, C.S.A. at Bennett House, North Carolina. Gore's command stayed with the convoy all the way to Washington, Georgia, where they surrendered to the 4th Iowa Cavalry, U.S.A. on May 3, 1865; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, Mr. Hendley had the distinct opportunity to enroll in the United States Army Quartermasters School at Ft. Lee, Virginia, under the direction (Special Orders # 237 Paragraph 10) of Indiana Governor Matthew E. Welsh and Brigadier General John S. Anderson (The Adjutant General), who placed him on active duty so as to attend this prestigious military school. During his tenure there, he obtained a superior rating and was named "Honor Graduate" from the Canvas and Webbed Equipment Repair Course, which was recognized with a presentation photo appearing at the top center of the front page of the *Franklin Evening Star*, Franklin, Indiana on Monday, April 2, 1962. Mr. Hendley's great-great-grandfather Willis J.

Glover of Pike County, Georgia, was a career tailor and made uniforms for the Confederate States Army. It is believed that General Sherman removed all the textile workers starting at Roswell, Georgia, and all around the vicinity of Atlanta and deported them on rail from Dalton, Georgia, through Nashville, Tennessee, to a civilian prison camp in Louisville, Kentucky, thus leading to them being resettled near Bowling Green, Kentucky, Warren County, after the war: see *“North Across the River: A Civil War Trail of Tears”* by Ruth Beaumont Cook, 1999; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Matthew E. Welsh served as the Civil War Centennial Governor of Indiana, and was instrumental in returning all the captured Confederate Battled Flags captured by Indiana Union units as a *“Gesture of Good Will”* to all the southern states, especially the State of Tennessee, which were returned to Tennessee’s Civil War Centennial Governor Buford Ellington in a ceremony hosted by color guards from the Tennessee and Indiana National Guards at the Tennessee State Capitol in Nashville on May 31, 1961, Mr. Hendley’s 23rd birthday. Mr. Hendley’s first cousin, William H. “Bill” Hendley, had just been on a 4<sup>th</sup>-grade field trip to the Indiana State House in Indianapolis on May 24 where he and his class were given the honor of passing through the governor’s small nook to see him signing documents. Mr. William H. Hendley later was appointed (September 15, 1975) Indiana’s representative on the Tennessee Monument Commission, Inc.’s effort to place a Tennessee Memorial at the National Battlefield Park of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, which was dedicated on July 3, 1982, by Tennessee Lieutenant Governor John S. Wilder; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hendley was again activated on January 17, 1965, by Special Orders # 42 Paragraph 13, when Governor Roger D. Branigin called out the Indiana Army National Guard under command of Major General John S. Anderson (The Adjutant General), for snow emergency that had crippled the State Capital of Indianapolis and vicinity; (during his time of service in the Indiana Army National Guard, Mr. Hendley thrice earned the Sharpshooter (Rifle) Badge and, on June 16, 1966, was honorably discharged with ten years of service and the rank of Sergeant (SP5 E-5); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hendley spent nine years working for the Military Department of Indiana (USPFO), from 1956 to 1965, as a trades helper, mechanic (Jr.), painter, canvas & leather

repairman, and automotive repairman; at the end of his tenure with the USPFO, he had advanced to Level II (NGW 11-3); and

WHEREAS, Billy Frank Hendley married the former Marilyn Jo Snyder on November 20, 1959, and of this union were born five children; surviving along with his former wife are: Bryan D. Hendley (Star Trucking Co. as a Driver) of Franklin, Indiana; Tern L. Webb (Bank Loans Officer) of Franklin, Indiana; Steven W. Hendley with his mother in the old former IGA store he converted into two apartments of Providence, Indiana; Timothy H. Hendley (Upholstery shop on his farm following in his father's shoes with horses and other animals) of Trafalgar, Indiana; and Carole M. Ellis (school bus attendant) of Franklin, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, Billy Frank Hendley was an entrepreneur, beginning a rewarding and profitable journey of self-employment in 1965; he first owned and managed a Philip 66 service station on U.S. Highway 31 (N. Morton Street) and Bill's Upholstery Shop (S. Main Street), both in Franklin, Indiana. He eventually closed the service station and later moved the upholstery shop to his home. Overwhelming their home, he bought and relocated to an old abandoned former IGA store in the heart of the town of Providence, Indiana. By 1984, outgrowing this site, he leased a very large old two-story building in downtown Bargersville, Indiana. He had built a thriving upholstery business into a full time occupation, and so decided to quit driving a truck for Roadway Express, Inc. (Member of Teamsters Local Union # 135), Indianapolis, Indiana as a "second job" that he had for eighteen years. Mr. Hendley was always considerate of his family; whenever any family, siblings, cousins, etc. were in need of work, Mr. Hendley made every effort to employ them in any way possible in any of his businesses he was active with at the time; and

WHEREAS, Billy Frank Hendley held the first Hendley Family Reunion at his Banta, Johnson County, Indiana home on Memorial Day 1972, and the first National Reunion of both branches (Clans) of the Hendley family at his farm near Providence, Indiana, on Memorial Day 1975, this event established The Hendley Family Association of Tennessee which was inaugurated into existence on January 1, 1976. That January, Tennessee State Senator Tommy Burks in commemorating this occasion sent an official Tennessee State Flag, which was posted at the family reunion of The Francis Marion Hendley branch (Clan) of The Hendley Family

Association that Memorial Day of 1976. Mr. Orvale Hale alluded to in Senator Tommy Burks' Tennessee Senate Joint Resolution No. 128 (1989) for his "claw style" playing of the banjo, appeared with his wife at this reunion; "Cousin" Miss Minnie Pearl of the Grand Ole Opry sent a letter saying that she would have come had she gotten enough notice; Minnie Pearl was the Honorary Chairwoman of the Tennessee Monument Commission at the time; and

WHEREAS, Billy Frank Hendley played an important role in the establishment of The Hendley Family Association, serving on the first board of directors of The Hendley Family Association from 1976-1977; hosted the first reunion of the Francis Marion Hendley Clan (Branch) of The Hendley Family Association, Memorial Day 1976, in honor of the United States Bicentennial; was an original signatory of the Association's incorporation charter, filed December 29, 1976, at the State Capitol in Nashville, Tennessee by Secretary of State Joe C. Carr; and served as the second national president and first native Tennessean of The Hendley Family Association, Inc. of Tennessee from 1978 to 1979; he was elected to the first board of directors of the Francis Marion Hendley Clan (Branch) of The Hendley Family Association, Inc., serving from 2003 to September 23, 2007; again being elected to the national board of directors of The Hendley Family Association, Inc., serving from September 23, 2007 until his passing on April 20, 2013; and serving on The Smellage Cemetery of Putnam County Tennessee Historical Marker Commission of The Hendley Family Association, Inc., dedicated May 25, 2008, which was recognized by Tennessee Senate Joint Resolution No. 123, (2009) sponsored by Senator Charlotte Burks; and

WHEREAS, Billy Frank Hendley was presented the President's Award Plaque (fashioned in the shape of the State of Tennessee) for his sponsorship of the first three Hendley reunions by first National President Frank (Francis) M. Hendley, (II) of The Hendley Family Association, Inc. on May 31, 1977, *"For all the SACRIFICES he and his Family made to make the past Family Reunions "MILESTONES" in the history of the Great HENDLEY Family."* He was presented the President's Award of Merit Plaque for his dedication to The Hendley Family Association by National President William H. Hendley on May 31, 1982; he was recognized in Tennessee Senate Joint Resolution No. 128 as the first native Tennessean to be elected

president of the association, sponsored By Senator Tommy Burks of which the phrase "*Great Hendley Family of Tennessee*" was coined by the late Senator, and

WHEREAS, Billy Frank Hendley has had four of his children involved in the governance of The Hendley Family Association, Inc. His eldest son, Bryan, is a former member of the board of directors having served from 1982 to 2001; his eldest daughter, Terri L. Webb, who has been serving as national secretary since 1982; his youngest son, Timothy, is a current member of the board of directors since 2001; and his youngest daughter, Carole M. Ellis, has served as assistant national secretary since 1989; and

WHEREAS, Billy Frank Hendley invested in keeping horses, he rescued two horses from abuse in Brown County, Indiana, adding them along with other animals to his farm near Providence, Indiana. His youngest daughter, Carole, took care of a miniature horse, and even son, Steven, with his Down syndrome was able to ride when he wanted to. He felt that the care given by his children to the horses, rabbits, pigs, calves, sheep, and a few chickens, etc. helped to instill a sense of responsibility at their young ages; and on the funeral display board, and in the funeral DVD playing all during his funeral, the photo of Billy Frank Hendley riding off on his horse was such a grand gesture. During the family reunions of 1975 and 1976, attendees were encouraged to mount up just as their Tennessee ancestors had done during the War Between the States. Billy, being an Army sharpshooter, joined his Cousin William "Bill" H. Hendley's Confederate re-enactor group, and they gave lessons on loading and firing the black powder Civil War Zouave long rifle .58 caliber and Colt Navy revolver .36 caliber at the reunions also; and

WHEREAS, Billy Frank Hendley was active in his community, as he participated in numerous civic organizations, including Eli Lilly American Legion Post #374 of Indianapolis (11th District); the Tennessee Monument Commission, Inc. and the Confederate High Command re-enactment group, both of Nashville, Tennessee which dedicated Tennessee's State Memorial at the Gettysburg National Battlefield Park July 3, 1982; the Indiana-Tennessee Civil War Memorial Commission, which honored the late Indiana Congressman Joseph H. Defrees, native of Sparta, Tennessee, who led the fight for Tennessee's readmission to the Union in 1866 with a Memorial in the Indiana State House and placement of Tennessee Street

(1821-1894) Historic signage on Capitol Avenue in Indianapolis during Tennessee's Bicentennial, dedicated June 1, 1996; White River Valley Region's Antique Car Club of America; and lent his support, because of his son Steven's Down syndrome, to the establishment of the Johnson County Association for Retarded Citizens at the Gateway Learning Center in Franklin, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, Billy Frank Hendley retired in 2000 and was honored in the spring of 2001 by Tennessee Senate Joint Resolution No. 111 and Indiana House Resolution No. 56 for his lifetime of achievements, but Mr. Hendley continued on into retirement. He continued collecting and fixing up classic cars for the antique car club and drove them in town and city parades; he helped out at various times his son, Timothy, who had taken over the Upholstery business; they finished up one last joint project, a donation of cushions made for the pews at the old World War II prisoners (Italians) of war chapel museum at the U.S. Army post known as Camp Atterbury at Edinburgh, Indiana in southeast Johnson County, they received a kind "Thank You" letter from Post Commander Colonel Michael P. McGowen; he started a trend that his children have carried on for the next twelve years up to his passing, of "flipping houses", remodeling and reselling them. He would partner with his sons, Bryan and Timothy, and his daughters, Terri and Carole, at different times and different housing projects; and

WHEREAS, Billy Frank Hendley was the recipient of many awards and honors for his public service and community involvement, including: being appointed "HONORARY DELEGATE" for his outstanding service to the community, state and nation by Congressman, later Mayor of Nashville, Tennessee, Bill Boner 1980; Colonel Aide-de-Camp to Governor Lamar Alexander 1982; National Guard Lapel Pin from Indiana Adjutant General Carl G. Farrell 1988; the Honorary Lieutenant Governor citation from Indiana Lieutenant Governor, later Governor, the late Honorable Frank O'Bannon 1989; the National Guard Medal (Gold) presented by Department of Indiana American Legion Commander Jim Koutz 1990; the Governor's Outstanding Tennessee Award from Governor Ned R. McWherter 1990; Commendation by Tennessee Senate Joint Resolution No. 84, 1991 sponsored by Tennessee State Senator Tommy Burks; the Cold War Certificate of Recognition (DD FORM 2774. 1 JULY 2001) from Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld *"In Recognition of your service during the*

*period of the Cold War (2 September 1945 — 26 December 1991) in promoting peace and stability for this Nation, the people of this Nation are forever grateful.”; and the Honorary Lieutenant Governor citation from Indiana Lieutenant Governor, later Governor, Joseph E. Kernan 2003; he was posthumously awarded the “National Defense Service Medal” (first award) on April 29, 2013 by the Indiana Joint Forces Headquarters, Indiana National Guard, “It is with great pleasure that this award for service during the time of our Country’s need is forwarded”; and*

WHEREAS, Billy Frank Hendley’s funeral service was begun by funeral director Austin McGuire of Flinn & McGuire Funeral Home of Franklin, Indiana and eulogized by his daughter-in-law, now the former Mrs. Timothy (Beth) Hendley, at his funeral on April 23, 2013, and the Rev. Max Downs of the Franklin Church of the Nazarene led the funeral sermon “Seeking First His Kingdom & His Righteousness,” which exulted Mr. Hendley’s life: *“It is fitting this afternoon that we allow Billy to preach his own funeral by looking at his obituary & sharing observations for our own lives....”* and *“His obvious work ethic brings me to challenge. We must be about the Father’s business and a vital part of that obligation is working diligently and faithfully at the vocation to which God had called us forth, believe that God has a plan for each of our lives and when we find that plan, we are obligated to do our best in that work! Example, if God calls you to be a mechanic, remodeler, trucker, upholsterer...you can be the best mechanic possible!”* and love of country, through his service in the Indiana National Guard; and

WHEREAS, Billy Frank Hendley was laid to rest the next day, April 24, 2013 at 11:00 AM at East Hill Cemetery, Morgantown, Morgan County, Indiana. Mr. Hendley was placed from the hearse to the gravesite by pallbearers: Mr. William H. Hendley in the capacity of former 11th District Adjutant, The American Legion Department of Indiana; Mr. Justin Webb; Mr. Brandon Moorefield; Mr. Logan Hendley; Mr. Randy “Hick” Rodgers; and Mr. Shawn Gilley; and Mr. Austin Hendley served as an alternate. Rev. Max Downs presided and Mr. Hendley’s youngest daughter, Carole M. Hendley-Ellis, read the following personal letter to her father ending the service: *“My Father, My Friend. First I would like to thank Jesus Christ our Savior today. I cannot put into words,, nor have enough time to say what my father meant to me or did for me. But I would like to in a few words. My father was my friend—when no one else was there, he*



*was. When life was difficult, he was there. He was an advisor, teacher, always correcting but teaching. Our time together was short. There were so many things I have left to share. I wanted to flip houses with you. But you are now watching over me every day. When my time on earth is through I know we will meet again in heaven. I will miss you every day of my life but that would be selfish of me to be sad. You are in a better place. You never had a chance to rest though: you were tired from flipping houses. But I'm the daughter, you're the father, I couldn't tell you to rest. But the Father above did. He said enough is enough. May you rest in peace and know that I love you very much"; and*

WHEREAS, Billy Frank Hendley leaves behind eight grandchildren, Stephanie Webb, Justin Webb, Kristin Moorefield, Brandon Moorefield, Austin Hendley, Logan Hendley, Madison Hendley, and Morgan Hendley; and one great-grandchild Andre Webb, all of Johnson County, Indiana. Mr. Hendley leaves behind five sisters: Louise Burgdolf, Susie McClusky, Sara Hendley, Mary Rodgers, and Lilly Eisenmenger; three brothers: Walter, Wilbur Jr., and Ray, all of Johnson County, Indiana. His youngest sister, Margie Ward, preceded him in passing. Mr. Hendley also leaves behind a half-sister, Pandora Hendley Reagan, wife of Clay County Mayor Dale Reagan of Celina, Tennessee; two half-brothers, Calvin and Randall Hendley; a step brother Harold Clay Ray, all of Moss, Tennessee, Clay County. Mrs. Pandora Reagan was alluded to in Tennessee Senate Joint Resolution No. 128 1989 for adding her quarter of a century residence in the state of Tennessee to the 150 years of the family's Tennessee heritage at that time; and

WHEREAS, Billy Frank Hendley's family received condolence letters from: Tennessee Governor and Mrs. (Crissy) Bill Haslam; Indiana Governor Michael R. Pence; Virginia Governor and Mrs. (Maureen) Robert F. McDonnell; and Brigadier General John E. O'Neil, IV., Commandant (THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL), United States Army Quartermaster School, Ft. Lee, Virginia, all of which reflected on Mr. Hendley's long business career and his love of country by his service to the Indiana National Guard; and

WHEREAS, Billy Frank Hendley lived up to the highest merits and traditions of his Tennessee heritage. He surely lived the Motto of The Hendley Family Association, Inc. delivered by former Governor Ned R. McWherter at his first inaugural address on January 17,

1987: *"It is appropriate today that we pause to remember who we are, where we came from and what we have been taught."* He carried on the ethics and morals of his great-great-grandmother, Elizabeth Jane Gentry-Hendley, "MOTHER OF THE GREAT HENDLEY FAMILY OF TENNESSEE" as honored in Tennessee Senate Joint Resolution No. 337, 1996 sponsored by Tennessee State Senator Tommy Burks, whose epitaph on her burial marker at Smellage Cemetery of Putnam County reads *"SHE WAS A KIND AND AFFECTIONATE WIFE, A FOND MOTHER AND A FRIEND TO ALL."* Mr. Billy Frank Hendley, through his Tennessee heritage and upbringing, definitely was a *"FRIEND TO ALL!"*; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that this General Assembly pays a final tribute of the highest honor and respect to Billy Frank Hendley, one of its outstanding native sons, military veterans, entrepreneurs, all symbolic of the "Volunteer State," and sends its sympathy to his family, and to his family association of Tennessee that he fathered to establishment and was dedicated to serving up to his passing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.